

Agencies and Organizations Assisting Farmers

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES

28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
207-287-3871

“get real. get maine!”

a promotional branding campaign, to increase public awareness of Maine products. **Division of Market and Production Development, 287-3491**

Farmland Protection Program, 287-7520

Ag Business Planning Assistance

- **Farms for the Future**, administered jointly with Coastal Enterprises Inc., provides farmers grants to develop and implement business plans. **Dept. 287-7520** and **287-7620, CEI 772-5356**
- **NxLevel Business Planning**, coordinated by NRCS Heart of Maine Resource Conservation and Development Council, 368-4433
- **Food and Farms Resource Guide**—*Handbook for Maine Agricultural Businesses* provides farmers information on various agricultural subjects and programs. **287-3491**

Ag Business Loans and Grants

- Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund
- Potato Marketing Improvement Fund
- Agricultural Development Grant
- Agricultural Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Agricultural Water Source Development Cost Share Program

MAINE FARM BUREAU

A non-governmental, voluntary organization whose mission it is to analyze economic and public problems surrounding agriculture in Maine. Augusta, **622-4111**

MAINE FARM CREDIT

Specializes in lending to Maine's agricultural, fishing and forest products industries. Aroostook Regional Office, Presque Isle, **764-6431**; or Southern Regional Office, Auburn, **784-0193**

MAINE FARMLAND TRUST

A membership-based, non-profit organization working in the public's interest to protect Maine's precious farmland resources. Bucksport, **469-6465**

MAINE FARMLINK

A farm transfer program that connects farmers seeking farmland with retiring Maine farmers and farm owners who wish to see their agricultural lands remain active. Currently there are 35 prospective sellers and 67 prospective buyers statewide with 10 prospects in Franklin County. Freedom, **382-3255**

MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION (MOFGA)

Developed from a loose affiliation of farmers and gardeners committed to growing healthy, chemical free food, to an internationally recognized advocate for food production that enhances and protects the ecological as well as economic vitality of rural communities. Unity, **568-4142**

MAINE WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL NETWORK

A collaborative effort of farmers, agriculture and related non-profit, for profit and governmental agencies seeking to help women and other underserved individuals find the skills necessary to begin or continue farming profitably. Lisbon Falls, **800-287-1458**

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Assists farmers, landowners and communities with conserving and protecting natural resources. Each District works in partnership with the **USDA Natural Resource**

Conservation Service (NRCS), **USDA Farm Service Agency** and other federal, state and local agencies, including the **NRCS-Resource Conservation and Development Council**. Farmington, **778-4767**

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A major educational outreach program of the University of Maine, with offices statewide. Farmington **800-287-1478**, or statewide **800-287-0274**.

Web Links

United States Department of Agriculture
www.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
www.maine.gov/argiculture/

“get real. get maine!”
www.getrealmaine.com

Maine State Web Portal
www.maine.gov

Maine Food and Farms Resource Guide
www.getrealmaine.com/connect/

References

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
Maine Revenue Service

Franklin County

2003-2004 COUNTY PROFILE OF MAINE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Maine's agricultural future is inextricably linked to its ability to continue to build strong, long-lasting connections between farmers and the communities they serve. To help all citizens better understand how agriculture is connected to every aspect of life in Maine, this county profile provides citizens, community planners and natural resource conservation groups important facts about farmers, farms, farmland and agricultural enterprises in Franklin County.

Farmers in Franklin County



	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Farming as Principal Occupation	122	116	138	109	103
Male Operators (N)	NA	248	273	186	192
Female Operators	NA	11	15	24	31
Average Age	52	50	50	54	56

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

Statewide, farming has a unique connection to the history of Maine. Farmers are stewards of the land; well-managed farmland protects natural resources and creates beautiful open space. Many of Maine's first settlers were farmers whose fields, farmhouses and barns shaped Maine's historic landscape. Today, Maine's agricultural producers and processors annually contribute over 1.2 billion dollars to Maine's economy and employ 65,000 Maine people!

Franklin County Farmland

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Number Farms	216	259	288	210	223
Total Acres (A)	46,748	50,185	51,046	38,853	40,091
Average Farm Size (A)	216	194	177	185	180
Total Cropland (A)	16,376	17,000	16,276	14,876	14,723
Total Pasture (A)	NA	8,933	8,901	6,864	6,267
Total Orchard (A)	593	517	498	348	222
Total Berry (A)	6	41	27	NA	104
Total Hay (A)	8,350	10,406	10,492	9,228	9,882
Total Woodland (A)	25,212	29,510	30,360	21,539	22,782

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

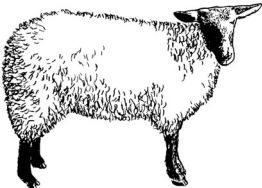
Land in Farms increased 3 percent from 38,853 in 1992 to 40,091 acres in 1997.



November
2003

Unique to Franklin County

- There are 8 granges in the county. **County Grange**, Robert Smith, Master, Wilton, 778-3066
- County Chapter **Maine Farm Bureau**, President, Pam Harnden, Dryden, 645-2568
- **Farmington Farmers Union**, Farmington. Contact: John Wilbur, 778-4520
- **Guide to Farms, Farmstands and Farmers' Markets in Maine's Mountain Counties** – prepared by Mountain Counties Heritage, Inc., 778-3885
- **Land Trust Organizations**
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, founded in 1991, 864-7311; *Webb Lake Association*, founded in 1993, 645-2484
- The **State Historic Preservation Office** (287-2132) and **Maine Preservation** (775-7737) will have information regarding the county's agriculturally related places of historic and cultural significance.



Farmland Protected in Franklin County

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

- 230 acres (one farm) has been protected by one nonprofit organization

TEMPORARILY PROTECTED

USDA Farm Service Agency

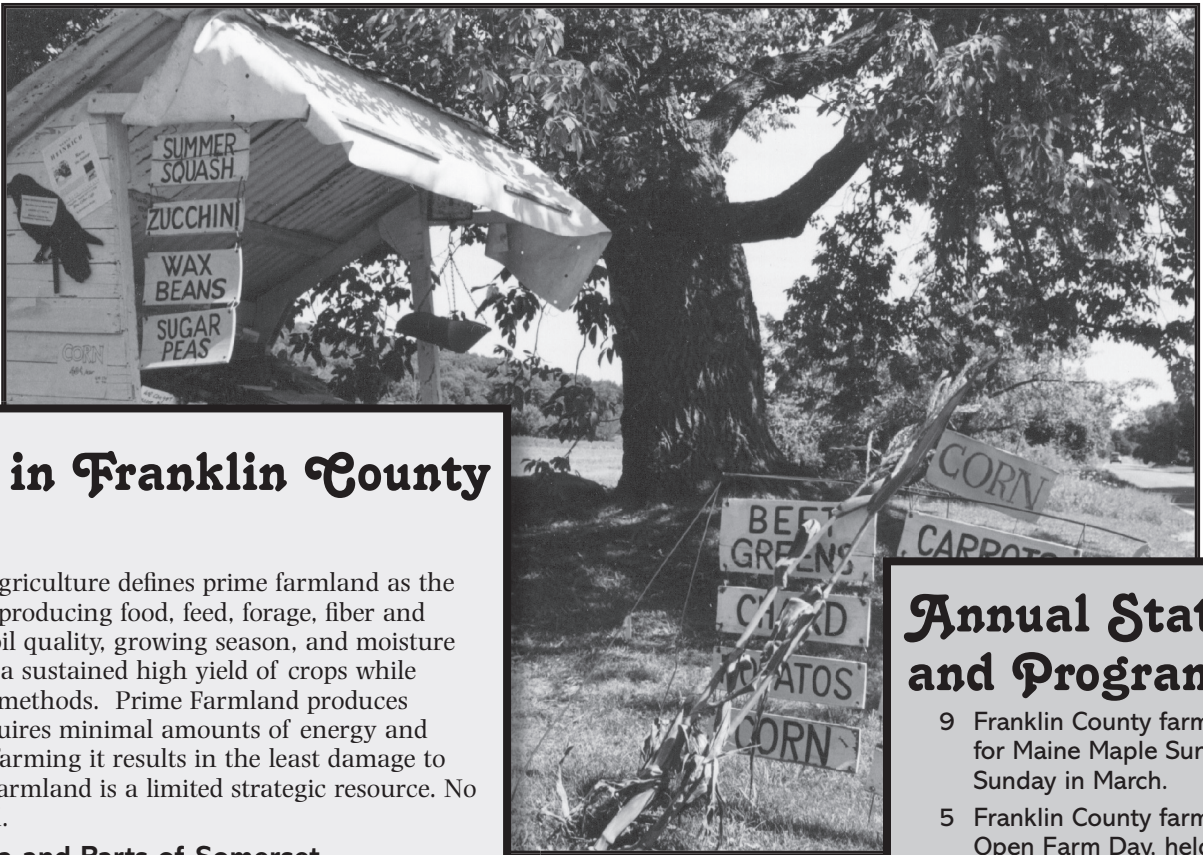
- 119 acres protected through Debt for Nature (50 years)

Enrolled in Farm and Open Space Tax Program

- 49,840 acres farmland in 2002 — 3,138 acres cropland plus 46,702 acres woodland
- 5,346 acres open space in 2001

Enrolled in Tree Growth Tax Program

- 285,222 acres enrolled in 2001



Prime Soils in Franklin County

PRIME FARMLAND

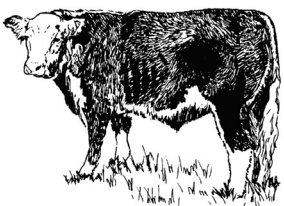
The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while using acceptable farming methods. Prime Farmland produces the highest yields and requires minimal amounts of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Prime Farmland is a limited strategic resource. No more of it is being created.

Franklin County Area and Parts of Somerset
25,572 acres (estimated)
Southern Part of Franklin County
25,193 acres (estimated)

SOILS OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide significance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce a high yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable.

Franklin County Area and Parts of Somerset
27,254 acres (estimated)
Southern Part of Franklin County
25,110 acres (estimated)



Food, Farms* and Fairs in Franklin County

- 37 Farmstands/Nurseries/Greenhouses open to the public
 - 1 Farmers' Market serving multiple communities
 - 2 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms contract directly with their customers who pay a fixed price in advance for fresh produce throughout the season
 - 6 Farms offer Pick Your Own fruits and vegetables
 - 8 Farms host on farm events and activities, such as pumpkin hunts, animal viewing, hayrides and school programs
- 1 Agricultural Fair (Farmington Fair) drew up to 35,000 people to Franklin County in 2002.

** Some farms may be counted in multiple categories. Not all farm activities and retail services are listed here.*

Annual Statewide Events and Programs in 2003

- 9 Franklin County farms opened their sugarhouses for Maine Maple Sunday, held annually on the 4th Sunday in March.
- 5 Franklin County farms welcomed the public on Open Farm Day, held on the 4th Sunday in July.
- 1 Franklin County restaurant participated in Maine Menus Month in October, making special efforts to feature Maine grown, raised and harvested ingredients on their menus.

Many farmers participated in Great Maine Apple Day at Highmoor Farm in early November to celebrate Maine's apple harvest.

- 8 Franklin County Farms and 95 seniors participated in Maine Senior Farm Share, a program funded by the USDA, which provides locally grown produce to low income seniors. Statewide, 185 farmers benefited from nearly \$900,00 and additional seniors received fresh produce through food pantries and community meal sites..



Statewide market research in 2002 showed 89 percent surveyed believe that buying locally grown food strengthens Maine's economy.

Franklin County Agricultural Sales

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
All crops	\$1,062,000	\$728,000	\$879,000	NA	\$1,374,000
Livestock/poultry and their products	\$4,995,000	\$6,522,000	\$6,162,000	\$6,179,000	NA
Fruits, nuts and berries	NA	\$318,000	\$488,000	\$652,000	\$421,000

**USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*